ARES, DARK DAYS HAVE BEFALLEN THE ANCIENT PANTHEONS.
WHILE YOU WERE ON EARTH, THOR, ODIN AND ALL OF ASGARD WAS DESTROYED.
DETAILS ARE SCARCE, BUT WE BELIEVE MIKABOSHI--WHO COMES FROM EARTH'S ANCIENT JAPANESE PANTHEON--HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ASGARD'S FALL.
WE'VE LEARNED THAT MIKABOSHI FORCED JAPAN'S PANTHEON INTO A GREAT CIVIL WAR, SEIZING POWER AMID THE CHAOS.
HIS ARMIES ATTACKED US HERE FIRST, VENTURING INTO THE FIELDS OF GOLD. THEN THEY PUSHED ON TO THE OUTER WALLS OF OLYMPUS.
THEY SEEM TO BE ABLE TO TRANSPORT WHOLE ARMIES IN AN INSTANT, STRIKING WITHOUT NOTICE.
MANY HEROES HAVE DIED DEFENDING OUR WALLS.
OF MY MYRMIDONS, ALL BUT THREE DIED PROTECTING YOUR SON, ARES.
ALL WHO'VE STOOD WITH US HAVE FALLEN. ZEUS IS WEAKENED. YOU ARE OUR LAST HOPE.
PERHAPS. JUST REMEMBER, YOU TAKE ORDERS FROM ME
SHUT UP. YOU LORD OVER ARM WRESTLING AND SUCH. YOU KNOW LITTLE OF WARRING, WHICH IS WHY YOU'RE FAILING SO MISERABLY.
ACHILLES SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN CHARGE OF THIS CAMPAIGN FROM THE START. WHAT OF ODYSSEUS?
DEAD.
TOO BAD, I CAME TO LIKE HIM...WHO STANDS WITH US NOW?

THE GODS APOLLO AND ATHENA. MY COUSIN PATROCLUS. THESEUS, AJAX, JASON AND HIS ARGONAUTS. PERSEUS...TOO MANY EARTHBOUND HEROES TO MENTION.
HMMPHHF... WE'LL NEED MORE THAN HEROES TO DEFEAT THIS ARMY.
TELL ME MORE OF MIKABOSHI...

THEY HAVE BREACHED OUR WALLS!
THEY CONTINUE TO HIDE FROM OUR SEERS AND PASS OUR GUARDIANS!

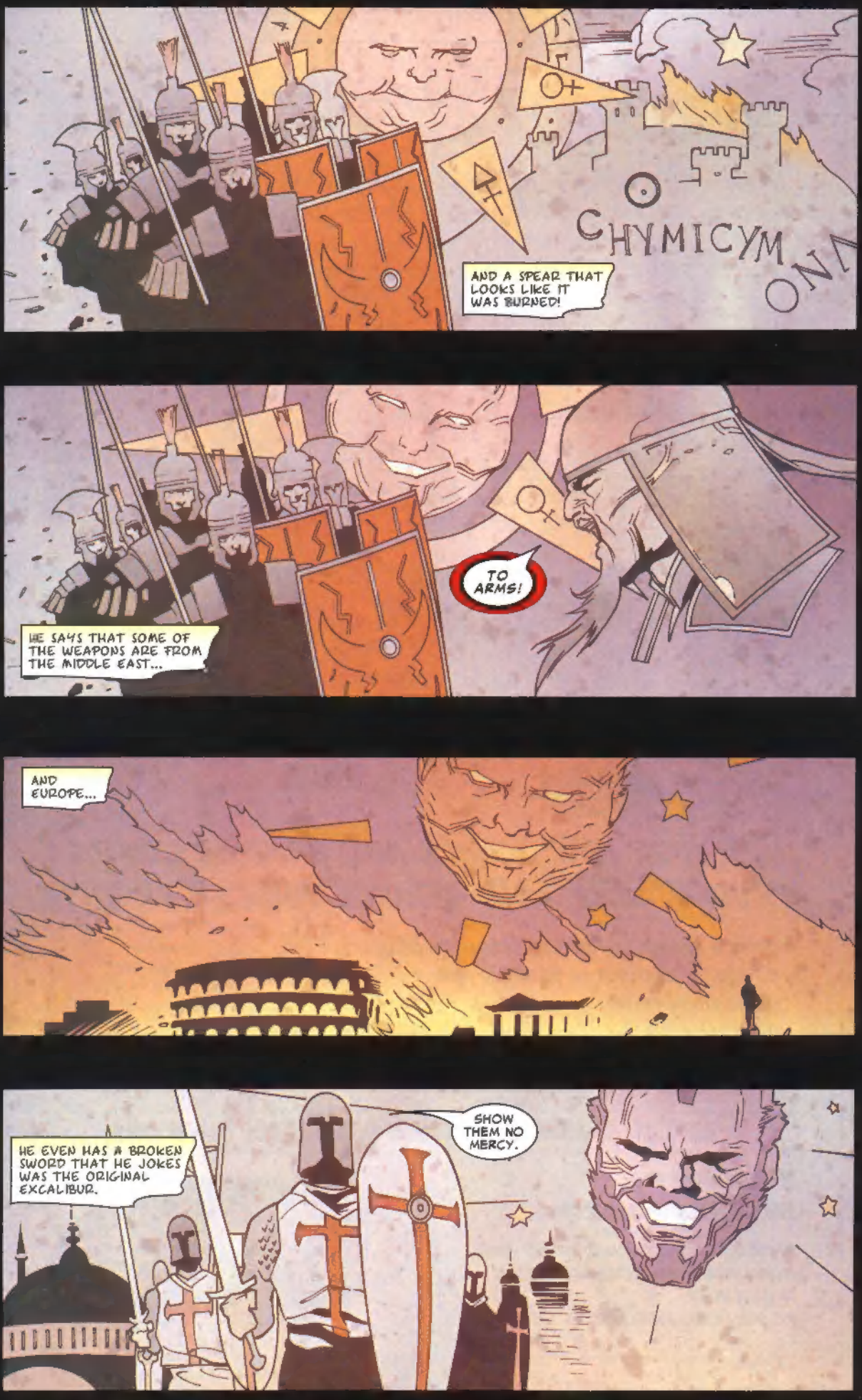
ASIDE!!! HHFFFFF!!
NOT SINCE YOU LAST DEFILED MY FATHER'S PALACE, ARES, HAS OLYMPUS SEEN SUCH DISGRACE--
RAAAAAA!!! BY THE BOLTS OF ZEUS...
RRUMBMMBBMBKKKKKK!
NOW I WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO WAR WITH THE HEART OF HONOR--NOT WITH HATE AND GUILE! EVEN HERA HAS TURNED FROM SUCH DARK WAYS AS YOURS!!
...I HAVE HAD...
ENOUGH!!!
HMMPH.
FOR ALEXANDER!

MY HERO
ESSAY BY ALEXANDER AARON
GRADE 3
MRS. PERRINE'S CLASS

I CHOSE MY FATHER AS MY HERO BECAUSE HE IS BIG AND STRONG. HE IS ALSO VERY SMART AND HE LOVES HISTORY.

HE HAS A WEAPONS COLLECTION THAT IS VERY OLD. THERE IS ONE FROM ANCIENT GREECE, A CELTIC (PRONOUNCED WITH A "K" NOT LIKE THE BASKETBALL TEAM) SPEAR...

A ROMAN HELMET THAT HAS A COOL DENT IN IT.


AND A SPEAR THAT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS BURNED!
TO ARMS!
HE SAYS THAT SOME OF THE WEAPONS ARE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST...
AND EUROPE...
HE EVEN HAS A BROKEN SWORD THAT HE JOKES WAS THE ORIGINAL EXCALIBUR.
SHOW THEM NO MERCY.

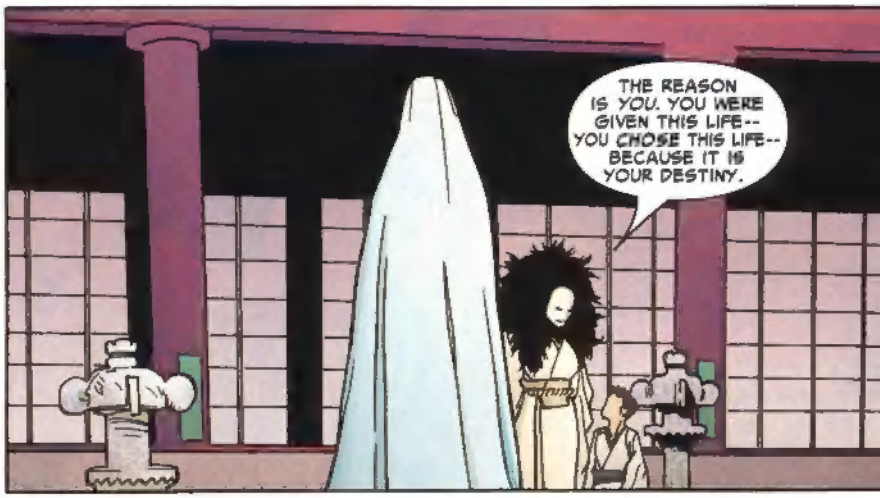
HAHAHAH...
HE ALSO HAS SOME GUNS, BUT THEY ARE LOCKED UP.

SOME MEDALS.
HAHAHAHAHA

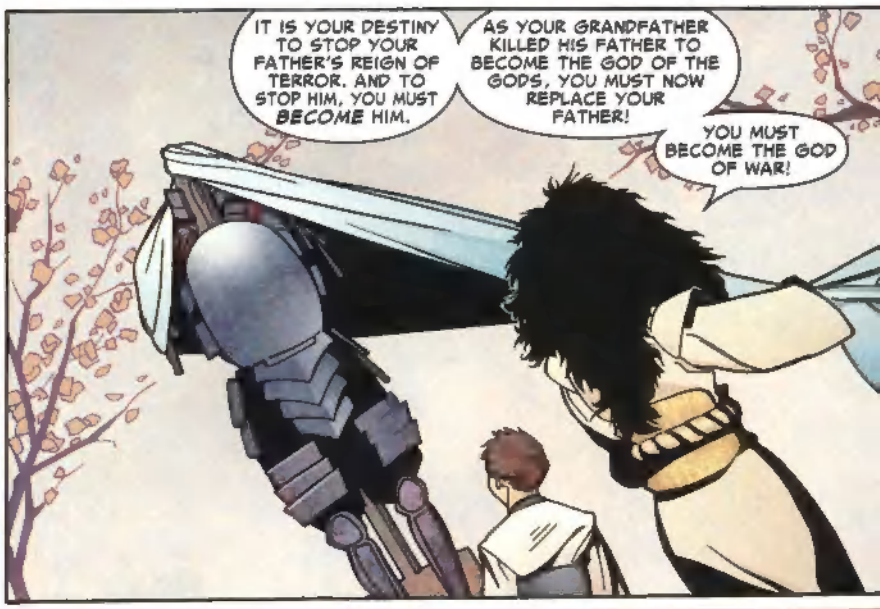
AND AN AMERICAN INDIAN AXE.
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAH

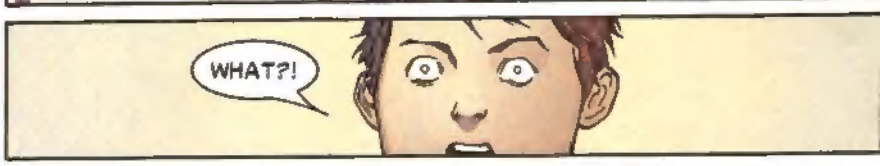
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF HOW BIG HE IS, OR THE COOL STUFF HE HAS, THAT HE IS MY HERO. IT'S BECAUSE OF HIS HONESTY.

COME THEN. I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.


THE REASON IS *YOU*. YOU WERE GIVEN THIS LIFE-- YOU ***CHOSE*** THIS LIFE-- BECAUSE IT IS YOUR DESTINY.

IT IS SAID WE CHOOSE THE LIFE WE LEAD FOR A REASON, ALEX.
IT IS NO COINCIDENCE YOUR FATHER IS *YOUR* FATHER.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...


IT IS YOUR DESTINY TO STOP YOUR FATHER'S REIGN OF TERROR. AND TO STOP HIM, YOU MUST ***BECOME*** HIM.
AS YOUR GRANDFATHER KILLED HIS FATHER TO BECOME THE GOD OF THE GODS, YOU MUST NOW REPLACE YOUR FATHER!
YOU MUST BECOME THE GOD OF WAR!


WHAT?!

CAN'T YOU FEEL THAT THIS IS RIGHT, ALEX?

COME NOW... THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SCARED.

WHAT?! HOW--I--I DON'T WANT THIS! I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE HIM!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE. YOU CAN BE BETTER THAN HIM!
YOU DON'T NEED TO SIMPLY REPLACE HIM, YOU CAN REDEFINE HIM! YOU CAN BE THE GOD OF WAR WHO ENDS WAR, WHO ENDS CONFLICT--YOU CAN BRING PEACE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...I DON'T WANT THIS! THIS ISN'T RIGHT-- YOU'RE LYING TO ME--MY FATHER NEVER--!
ALEX... SIT DOWN...
YOU DON'T LOOK SO WELL!
REST NOW.
I'M SORRY, YOU WEREN'T QUITE READY FOR THIS YET.
DRINK MORE OF THIS.
UNNHH...